(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date 30 November 2000 (30.11.2000)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 00/71615 A1

(51) International Patent Classification7:

C08L 23/04

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/01959

(22) International Filing Date: 22 May 2000 (22.05.2000)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

9911934.9

21 May 1999 (21.05.1999) GE

- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BORE-ALIS TECHNOLOGY OY [Fi/FI]; FIN-06101 Porvoo (FI).
- (71) Applicant (for GB only): COCKBAIN, Julian [GB/GB]; Flat 4, 83 Linden Gardens, London W2 4EU (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): LINDAHL, Ann, Dristin [NO/NO]; Borealis AS, N-3960 Stathelle (NO). AUGESTAD, Morten [NO/NO]; Borealis AS, N-3960 Stathelle (NO). NYGAARD, Heidi, Faukald [NO/NO]; Borealis AS, N-3960 Stathelle (NO). BAANN, Hege, Vale [NO/NO]; Borealis AS, N-3960 Stathelle (NO).

- (74) Agents: COCKBAIN, Julian et al.; Frank B. Dehn & Co., 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB).
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AT (utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, CZ (utility model), DE, DE (utility model), DK, DK (utility model), DM, DZ, EE, EE (utility model), ES, FI, FI (utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KR (utility model), KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

With international search report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

171615 A1

(54) Title: INJECTION MOULDING

(57) Abstract: The invention provides the use in injection moulding or extrusion coating, preferably in injection moulding f liquids containers, closures and caps, of a HDPE comprising at least two polyethylene components having different molecular weight distributions wherein at least one of said components is an ethylene copolymer.

- 1 -

Injection Moulding

The invention relates to improvements in and relating to high density polyethylenes (HDPE) and in particular to the use of HDPE for injection moulding.

HDPE is a polymer which is often used for the production by injection moulding of products used for packaging or containers. The HDPE materials conventionally used for these purposes are generally monomodal polyethylenes prepared using Ziegler-Natta catalysts.

Where products are produced by injection moulding, it is important that the warpage in the product be low as otherwise the physical appearance of the product is poor.

Moreover, where an injection moulded HDPE product is to be used to contain liquids where spillage would be environmentally undesirable, it is important that the moulded polymer is resistant to stress cracking. This may be measured by the environmental stress crack resistance (ESCR) test, a standardized ASTM test (e.g. ASTM D1693. Cond B).

The standard commercially available HDPE injection moulding materials however have unsatisfactorily low ESCR values and thus are unsuitable for the production of injection moulded containers or other packaging materials for liquid chemical products, such as liquid chemicals, glues, paints, varnishes, solvent-based soaps etc.

The polymers used for injection moulding are monomodal (ie. with a single peak in their molecular weight distributions). This is in order to avoid warpage.

However, despite the conventional wisdom that it is essential to use monomodal HDPE for injection moulding, we have now surprisingly found that by using bimodal or

- 2 -

multimodal HDPE wherein at least one of the polyethylene components is an ethylene copolymer, it is possible to produce injection moulded products with improved ESCR and warpage.

Viewed from one aspect the invention thus provides the use in injection moulding, preferably in injection moulding of liquids containers, caps and closures, of a HDPE comprising at least two polyethylene components having different molecular weight distributions wherein at least one of said components is an ethylene copolymer.

While the different components may both be ethylene copolymers and while one may be an ethylene homopolymer, the components cannot both be ethylene homopolymers. Where one of the components is an ethylene homopolymer, this is preferably the component with the lower weight average molecular weight (Mw), e.g. where Mw is 5000 to 100000 D, more preferably 20000 to 40000 D.

Viewed from a further aspect the invention provides an injection moulded liquids container, preferably a container for liquids comprising an organic solvent, the walls whereof are formed from a HDPE comprising at least two polyethylene components having different molecular weight distributions wherein at least one of said components is an ethylene copolymer.

Viewed from a further aspect the invention provides an injection or extrusion moulded cap or closure, preferably a cap or closure for a container for beverages or liquids comprising an organic solvent, which cap or closure is formed from a HDPE comprising at least two polyethylene components having different molecular weight distributions wherein at least one of said components is an ethylene copolymer.

Viewed from a further aspect the invention provides an HDPE for use in injection moulding, comprising at least two polyethylene components, wherein at least one said component is an ethylene copolymer and wherein at least the component with the lowest weight average molecular weight is an ethylene homopolymer'.

By polyethylene is meant a polymer the majority by weight of which derives from ethylene monomer units. Minor comonomer contributions, e.g. up to 20% by weight more preferably up to 10% by weight, may derive from other copolymerizable monomers, generally C3-20, especially C3-10, comonomers, particularly singly or multiply ethylenically unsaturated comonomers, in particular C_{3-10} α -olefins such as propene, but-1-ene, hex-l-ene, 4-methyl-pent-l-ene etc. It may be noted that the term ethylene copolymer is used herein to relate to a polyethylene deriving from ethylene and one or more such copolymerisable comonomers. Moreover, the polyethylene may contain minor, e.g up to 10% by weight, preferably up to 5% by weight of other polymers, e.g. other polyolefins in particular polypropylenes, as well as additives such as colours, fillers, radiation stabilizers, antioxidants, etc., generally in amounts of up to 10% by weight, preferably up to 5% by weight.

By HDPE is meant a polyethylene having a density of 940 to 980 kg/m³, preferably 945 to 975 kg/m³, especially 950 to 965 kg/m³ and a crystallinity of 60 to 90%, preferably 70 to 90%.

The HDPE according to the invention is a bimodal or multimodal polymer. By bimodal (or multimodal), it is meant that the polymer consists of at least two fractions (components), one of which has a relatively low molecular weight and a relatively high density and another of which has a relatively high molecular weight and a relatively low density. Typically the molecular weight distribution (MWD) of a polymer produced in a single polymerization stage using a single monomer mixture, a single polymerization catalyst and a single set of process conditions (ie. temperature, pressure etc.) will show a single maximum, the breadth of which will depend on catalyst choice, reactor choice, process

```
conditions, etc, ie. such a polymer will be monomodal.
                                                                                    A plmodal or multimodal polyethylene may be polyethylenes or more monomodal polyethylenes are more monomodal polyethylenes.

Produced by blending two or maxima in their mume produced by ferently centred maxima in their maxima in the maxima in
                                                                                               Produced by plending two or more monomodal polyet, and maxima in their whose having differently centred maxima himself and maxima himself and maxima himself.
                                                                                                             naving differently centred maxima bimodal polyethylene which and preferably the bimodal conditions which are and preferably and preferably and preferably and preferably are a conditions which are a conditions and preferably are a conditions and preferably and preferably are a conditions and preferably are a conditions and a conditions are a con
                                                                                                                          Alternatively and preferably the pimodal conditions which may be produced by polymerization using produced by polymerization polymer product.
WO 00171615
                                                                                                                                         may be produced by polymerization using conditions which may be produced by multimodal polymer product, more create a bimodal or multimodal polymer with rwn or more create a catalizet excetem or migrature with rwn or more create a catalizet excetem or migrature with rwn or more create a catalizet excetem or migrature with rwn or more create a catalizet excetem or migrature with rwn or more create a catalizet excetem or migrature with rwn or more create a catalizet excetem or migrature with rwn or more create a catalizet excetem or migrature with rwn or more create a catalizet excetem or migrature with rwn or more create a catalizet excetem or migrature with rwn or more create a catalizet excetem or migrature excet
                                                                                                                                                        creace a catalyst system or mixture with two or more using a catalyst system or mixture with two or more
                                                                                                                                                                                 different catalytic sites, using two or more stage conditions with different remneratures with different remneratures polymerisation process (e.g. different different
                                                                                                                                                                    polymerisation process with different temperatures, different stages (e.g. hydroden partial hydroden the different process with different temperatures, hydroden partial hydroden partial hydroden partial pressures.
                                                                                                                                                                                                          In the different stages (e.g. different temperature hydrogen partial pressures etc)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       such a bimodal (or multimodal) HDPE may be produced such a bimodal have a multimodal) arhulana
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 relatively simply by a multistage ethylene for least of reactors, with using a series of reactors, wend for polymerization, in only the reactor(e) wend for polymerization in only the reactor(e) mend for the reactor(e) mend
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       relatively simply by a multistage ethylene
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              polymerization, e.g. using a series of reactors, for only the reactor(s) used for only the reactor(s) used for comonomer addition higher/higher molecular molecular molecular molecular.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           componer addition in only the reactor(s) used for weight weight highest molecular weight highest molecular production of the higher himself hi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            Examples of bimodal pe production are
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               Pressures etc).
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    If an ethylene homopolymer component is produced by
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  If an ethylene homopolymer component is produced by involving use of recycled diluent, amali amounts of higher of surry polymerization in small amounts of higher that diluent may contain small amounts of higher of the surry polymerization in small amounts of higher of the surry polymerization in small amounts of higher of the surry polymerization in small amounts of higher of the surry polymerization in small amounts of higher of the surry polymerization in small amounts of higher of the surry polymerization in small amounts of the surry polymerization in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        component in Ep-A-778289 and W092/12182.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              slurry polymerization involving use of recycled aline that diluent may contain small amounts of higher are that diluent contains and rivewise where an earlier that diluent contains are contains and contains and contains are contains are contains and contains are contains and contains are contains and contains are contains are contains and contains are contains are contains and contains are contains and contains are contains are contains and contains are contains are contains and contains are contains are contains and contains are contains are contains are contains are contains are co
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        olefine as contaminants. Likewise where an earlier

Likewise where an earlier

Likewise where an earlier

Likewise where an earlier

and an ethylene carried

arried

olefine as contaminants of commonomer may be carried

polymerization stage has produced an ethylene carried

polymerization amaliamounts of commonomer may be carried
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Polymerization stage has produced an ethylene copolyme
component, small amounts of comonomer may be
component, small amounts of comonomer, at an ethylene homonolymer, at an ethylene homonolymer, at an ethylene homonolymer, at an ethylene homonolymer, and ethylene copolyme.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  component (B).
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                over to an ethylene homopolymerization stage. herein a over to an by ethylene homopolymer weight of athylene at least 99.9% hy weight Accordingly.

Accordingly containing at least polymer containing at least polymer
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   component, small amounts of comonomer may be component of an ethylene homopolymerization stage.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              Accordingly, by ethylene homopolymer is meant herein a ethylene homopolymer is meant of ethylene homopolymer is meant of ethylene for a militarare militar
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               oletins as contaminants.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        units. Likewise as in a multistage multireactor the catalyst system, and than one catalyst rartially polymerization catalyst may be at least rartially polymerization catalyst may be at least nartially homopolymerization catalysts.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    polymerization using more than one catalyst system, and be at least partially nomopolymerization catalysts may be at least and reaction and homopolymerization conclumerization reaction and homopolymerization the conclumerization active
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  active during the copolymerization reaction, any weight of than 5% by weight of than 5% by the the considered to be the copolymer copolymer shall not be considered to be the copolymer.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   nomopolymerization catalysts may be at least part;

the copolymerization than the making in large and the making in large active during the making active during the making active during the making active during
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 copolymer component making up less than 3% by weight to be total polymer shall not be considered to be the total polymer weight
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           the total polymer shall not be considered to be the according lowest molecular weight component in an HDPE according lowest molecular weight component in an HDPE according
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              to the invention.
```

The copolymer component(s) of the HDPE used according to the invention will generally contain at least 0.1% by weight, preferably at least 0.5% by weight of non-ethylene monomer units, e.g. 0.5 to 6% of such componer units.

The polymerization reactions used to produce the HDPE of the invention may involve conventional ethylene homopolymerization or copolymerization reactions, e.g. gas-phase, slurry phase, liquid phase polymerizations, using conventional reactors, e.g. loop reactors, gas phase reactors, batch reactors etc. (see for example WO97/44371 and WO96/18662). The catalyst systems used may likewise be any conventional systems, e.g. chromium catalysts, Ziegler-Natta and metallocene or metallocene:aluminoxane catalysts, either homogeneous or more preferably heterogeneous catalysts, e.g. catalysts supported on inorganic or organic particulates, in particular on magnesium halides or inorganic oxides such as silica, alumina or silica-alumina. For the preparation of the high molecular weight component in particular it is especially desirable to use supported Ziegler-Natta catalysts as the molecular weight can then conveniently be controlled using hydrogen. It is also possible to use supported metallocene catalysts as it is particularly straightforward to select desired molecular weights by appropriate selection of particular metallocenes. The metallocenes used will typically be group IVa to VIa metals (in particular Zr or Hf) complexed by optionally substituted cyclopentadienyl groups, e.g. groups carrying pendant or fused substituents optionally linked together by bridging Suitable metallocenes and aluminoxane cocatalysts are widely described in the literature, e.g. the patent publications of Borealis, Hoechst, Exxon, etc.

Typically and preferably however the HDPE will be prepared using multistage polymerization using a single

catalyst system or a plurality of catalyst systems, e.g. two or more metallocenes, one or more metallocenes and one or more Ziegler-Natta catalysts, two or more chromium catalysts, one or more chromium catalysts and one or more Ziegler-Natta catalysts, etc. Especially preferably the same catalyst system is used in the different polymerization stages, e.g. a catalyst system as described in EP-A-688794.

The properties of the HDPE used according to the invention preferably have the following values:

Low molecular weight component:

MFR₂ of 50-1000 g/10 min, preferably 200-800 g/10 min, measured according to ISO 1133 at 190 $^{\circ}$ C and under 2.16 kg load;

weight average molecular weight of 5-50 kD,
preferably 20-40 kD;

preferably a homopolymer or a copolymer with density higher than 965 kg/m^3 , most preferably a homopolymer;

comprises 10-90% by weight, preferably 40-60% by weight of the total polyethylene in the composition.

High molecular weight component:

Has molecular weight and comonomer content such that the final polymer composition has the desired preset MFR and density;

weight average molecular weight of 150-400 kD; comprises 10-90% by weight, preferably 40-60% by weight of the total polyethylene in the composition, i.e. low mw:high mw component weight ratio is 10:90 to 90:10, preferably 40:60 to 60:40.

Final polymer composition:

MFR₂ of 2-100 g/10 min, preferably 3-50 g/10 min, in particular 4-20 g/10 min, measured according to ISO 1133 at 190° C and under 2.16 kg load;

- 7 -

weight average molecular weight of 80-200,
preferably 100-180 kD;

molecular weight distribution (ratio of the weight average molecular weight to the number average molecular weight) of 5-100, preferably 10-60, more preferably 14-45;

density of 940-980 kg/m 3 , preferably 945-975 kg/m 3 , in particular 950-965 kg/m 3 ;

comonomer content of 0.2-10% by weight, preferably 1-3% by weight, as measured by FTIR;

crystalline melting point between 120 and 140°C, as determined by DSC analysis;

crystallinity of 60-90%, as determined by DSC analysis.

Injection moulded article made from the polymer composition:

ESCR F_{50} higher than 10 h, preferably higher than 40 h, measured according to ASTM D1693, Condition B;

improvement in ESCR, measured as above, relative to a standard unimodal material HE7004 (manufactured and sold by Borealis) of 50-1000%, preferably of 500-1000%;

E-modulus of at least 800 MPa (measured according to ISO 527-2);

Impact strength of $30-200 \text{ kJ/m}^2$ (measured according to ISO 8256-A).

Such HDPE may typically be prepared in a one or more stage polymerization, with the catalyst systems and process conditions in the individual stages being selected to produce polyethylene components of average molecular weights 5 to 100 kD and 150 to 400 kD in abundances of 1:9 to 9:1.

For injection moulding of the resultant HDPE, conventional moulding equipment may be used, e.g. operating at an injection temperature of 190 to 275°C, Typically containers produced in this fashion will have

- 8 -

a volume of 100 mL to 100 L and caps and closures will typically have maximum dimensions of 10 to 600 mm.

The injection moulding compositions of the invention have the further advantage of improved flow. This may be demonstrated using the 'spiral test'. In this procedure an Engel ES330/65 injection moulding apparatus is used with a spiral mould with a depth of 1, 2 or typically 3 mm. The composition flow rate at 230°C under 300, 500 and 700 bar follow up pressures is determined on the length of flow in the spiral. Typically a composition according to the invention with an MFR₂ value of about 4 g/10 min behaves like a conventional polyethylene with MFR₂ of about 8 g/10 min. See Table 1 below.

Table 1

Modality	MFR ₂ *	Flow (cm)	at pressure	(p) (bar)
	(g/10 min)	p=300	p=500	p=700
Bimodal	4	32.6	47.5	61.3
Unimodal	2	21.5	32.3	41.6
Unimodal	4	27.1	39.8	52.5
Unimodal	8	35.2	50.2	65.2
Unimodal	12	40.8	57.2	72.5

^{*} measured according to ISO 1133

Besides being useful for injection moulding, it has also been found that the bimodal and multimodal HDPEs used according to the invention are particularly useful for extrusion coating, e.g. of paper or other substrates, producing coatings with low water vapor permeability and good coating draw down rates. Such use of the bimodal and multimodal HDPE's (especially ones with densities in excess of 935 kg/m³) forms a further aspect of the invention.

Viewed from a still further aspect the invention provides an HDPE comprising at least two polyethylene

- 9 -

components, wherein at least one said component is an ethylene copolymer and wherein at least the component with the lowest weight average molecular weight is an ethylene homopolymer and having the following characteristics:

MFR₂ of from 2 to 100;

mean weight average molecular weight of from 80 to 200 kD:

MWD of from 5 to 100;

weight average molecular weight of a low molecular weight fraction of 20 to 40 kD;

weight average molecular weight of a high molecular weight fraction of 150 to 400 kD;

weight ratio of said low molecular weight fraction to said high molecular weight fraction of 10:90 to 90:10; melting point 120 to 140°C;

density 940 to 950 kg/m3;

comonomer content 0.2 to 10% by weight; and crystallinity 60 to 90%.

Viewed from a yet further aspect the invention provides an HDPE moulding composition comprising a particulate HDPE having the following characteristics: MFR₂ of from 2 to 100;

mean weight average molecular weight of from 80 to 200 kD;

MWD of from 5 to 100;

weight average molecular weight of a low molecular weight fraction of 20 to 40 kD;

weight average molecular weight of a high molecular weight fraction of 150 to 400 kD;

weight ratio of said low molecular weight fraction to said high molecular weight fraction of 10:90 to 90:10; melting point 120 to 140°C;

density 940 to 950 kg/m³;

comonomer content 0.2 to 10% by weight; and crystallinity 60 to 90% together with at least one additive or further polymer.

- 10 -

Viewed from another aspect the invention provides an injection moulded article formed at least in part from an HDPE having the following characteristics: MFR_2 of from 2 to 100;

mean weight average molecular weight of from 80 to 200 kD;

MWD of from 5 to 100;

weight average molecular weight of a low molecular weight fraction of 20 to 40 kD;

weight average molecular weight of a high molecular weight fraction of 150 to 400 kD;

weight ratio of said low molecular weight fraction to said high molecular weight fraction of 10:90 to 90:10; melting point 120 to 140°C;

density 940 to 950 kg/m3;

comonomer content 0.2 to 10% by weight; and crystallinity 60 to 90%.

The invention will now be described further by reference to the following non-limiting Examples:

Example 1

Blended Bimodal HDPE

Two bimodal polyethylene compositions (Samples 1 and 2) were prepared by mixing two of the three polyethylene components (A, B and C) listed in Table 1 into blends using an extruder (Werner & Pfleider ZSK 30W) operating at 193-194°C.

- 11 -

Table 1

Component	Component	A	В	С
Property				
Mw(kD)		190	400	28
Mn (kD)		6	56	2.5
MWD		32	7	11
MFR_{21} (g/10 min)		33	0.1	400*
Density (kg/m^3)		955	927	974
*MFR ₂				

Sample 1 comprised 40% wt component C and 60% wt component A. Sample 2 comprised 60% wt component C and 40 wt% component B.

The properties of the blends are shown in Table 2 below.

Example 2

Reactor Produced Bimodal HDPE

Into a 50 dm³ loop reactor, operated at 80°C and 65 bar, was introduced 1 kg/hour ethylene, 22 kg/hour propane, 2g/hour hydrogen and the polymerization catalyst of Example 3 of EP-B-688794 (loaded on 20 micron silica) in a quantity such that PE production rate was 6.8 kg PE/hour. The MFR₂ and density of the product are estimated at 30 g/10 min and 970 kg/m³ respectively.

The slurry was continuously removed from the loop reactor and introduced into a second loop reactor having a volume of 500 dm 3 operating at 95°C and 60 bar. Additional ethylene, propane and hydrogen were added so as to produce a polyethylene at 27 kg/hour having MFR $_2$ 500 g/10 min and density 974 kg/m 3 . The polymer (still containing the active catalyst) was separated from the

reaction medium and transferred to a gas phase reactor where additional hydrogen, ethylene and 1-butene comonomer were added so as to produce a polyethylene at 70 kg/hour having MFR $_2$ 4 g/10 min and density 953 kg/m 3 . The fraction of high MFR (low MW) material in the total polymer was thus 40%. Three samples, denoted 3, 4 and 5, were produced in this manner.

The properties of samples 1 to 5 are set out in Table 2 below.

A commercially available unimodal reference material HE 7004 (Borealis) was similarly evaluated. The results are designated R1.

Table 2

Samples:	1	2	3	4	5	R1	R2
Mw Weight Average	121	170	102	106	105	105	70
Molecular Weight (kD)							
Mn Number Average	4.2	4.1	7	7.4	7.2	16	13
Molecular Weight (kD)							
MWD	29	41	14.5	14.3	14.2	6	5.5
MFR ₂ g/10 min ¹	2.6	1.7	3.9	3.2	4.8	4.0	12
Density (kg/m³)²	963	956	953	953	957	954	964
Ratio LMW/HMW	40/60	60/40	40/60	40/60	40/60		
ESCR, F50 (hours) ³	46	86	46	43		9	
ESCR improvement(%)	411	856	411	378		0	
E-modulus (kPa)4	1080	930	880	830		850	
Comonomer content	0.5	1.1	1.4	1.4		<0.1	
(wt %)							

 $^{^{1}\}text{MFR}_{2}$ determined at 190°C using 2.16 kg load according to ISO 1133

²Density determined using ISO 1183

³ESCR, F50 determined using ASTM D1693, Cond.B

- 13 -

⁴E-modulus determined using ISO 527-2

Table 2 clearly shows the bimodal HDPE to have superior ESCR properties.

Samples 3 and 4 in particular had excellent warpage and shrinkage properties.

Example 3

Injection Moulding

Using Samples 1 and 2 of Example 1, pails were produced by injection moulding. Specimens were cut from the walls of the pails and placed in a liquid containing 25 or 40% turpentine. Both samples produced products which showed approvable swell behaviour and stiffness in this test.

Example 4

Extrusion Coating

Extrusion coating runs were made on a beloit pilot line using UG paper of 70 g/m² weight. The coating was a coextruded structure comprising a commercially available LDPE (LE 7518 from Borealis) and Sample 5 of Example 2 above at coating weights of 20 and 10 g/m² respectively. The structure was thus paper -LE 7518 - sample 5. Corona treatment was used to improve adhesion to paper. Different line speeds were tested between 100 and 500 m/min and line behaviour was acceptable even at the highest speed. A sample was taken and tested for water vapour transmission rate (WVTR) (measured at 90% relative humidity and 38°C according to ASTM - E96). WVTR was found to be 10.3 $g/m^2/24$ hours.)

- 14 -

By way of comparison, a coated structure was produced in the same way using a commercially available unimodal HDPE (HE 7012 from Borealis, R2 in Table 2 above) in place of Sample 5. The WVTR was found to be $11.8g/m^2/24$ hour, i.e. a higher value even though the density of R2 is greater than that of Sample 5.

The bimodal HDPE thus has improved barrier properties relative to conventional materials.

- 15 -

Claims:

- 1. The use in injection moulding or extrusion coating of a HDPE comprising at least two polyethylene components having different molecular weight distributions wherein at least one of said components is an ethylene copolymer.
- Use as claimed in claim 1 of a said HDPE for injection moulding of liquids containers, closures or caps.
- 3. Use as claimed in either of claims 1 or 2 of an HDPE having the following characteristics: MFR2 of from 2 to 100; mean weight average molecular weight of from 80 to 200 kD; MWD of from 5 to 100; weight average molecular weight of a low molecular weight fraction of 20 to 40 kD; weight average molecular weight of a high molecular weight average molecular weight of a high molecular weight fraction of 150 to 400 kD; weight ratio of said low molecular weight fraction to said high molecular weight fraction of 10:90 to 90:10; melting point 120 to $140\,^{\circ}\text{C}$; density 940 to 950 kg/m³;
- 4. An injection moulded liquids container the walls whereof are formed from a HDPE comprising at least two polyethylene components having different molecular weight distributions wherein at least one of said components is an ethylene copolymer.

comonomer content 0.2 to 10% by weight; and

crystallinity 60 to 90%.

5. A container as claimed in claim 4 formed from a said HDPE having the following characteristics:

- 16 -

MFR₂ of from 2 to 100; mean weight average molecular weight of from 80 to 200 kD; MWD of from 5 to 100; weight average molecular weight of a low molecular weight fraction of 20 to 40 kD; weight average molecular weight of a high molecular weight fraction of 150 to 400 kD; weight ratio of said low molecular weight fraction to said high molecular weight fraction of 10:90 to 90:10; melting point 120 to 140°C; density 940 to 950 kg/m³; comonomer content 0.2 to 10% by weight; and crystallinity 60 to 90%.

- 6. An injection or extrusion moulded cap or closure, which cap or closure is formed from a HDPE comprising at least two polyethylene components having different molecular weight distributions wherein at least one of said components is an ethylene copolymer.
- 7. A cap or closure as claimed in claim 6 formed from a said HDPE having the following characteristics: $MFR_2 \ \text{of from 2 to 100;}$ mean weight average molecular weight of from 80 to 200

MWD of from 5 to 100;

kD;

weight average molecular weight of a low molecular weight fraction of 20 to 40 kD;

weight average molecular weight of a high molecular weight fraction of 150 to 400 kD;

weight ratio of said low molecular weight fraction to said high molecular weight fraction of 10:90 to 90:10; melting point 120 to 140°C;

density 940 to 950 kg/m³;

comonomer content 0.2 to 10% by weight; and crystallinity 60 to 90%.

- 17 -

8. An extrusion coated structure having at least one extruded layer formed from a HDPE comprising at least two polyethylene components having different molecular weight distributions wherein at least one of said components is an ethylene copolymer.

9. A structure as claimed in claim 8 wherein said at least one extruded layer is formed from a HDPE having the following characteristics:

MFR₂ of from 2 to 100;

mean weight average molecular weight of from 80 to 200 kD;

MWD of from 5 to 100;

weight average molecular weight of a low molecular weight fraction of 20 to 40 kD;

weight average molecular weight of a high molecular weight fraction of 150 to 400 kD;

weight ratio of said low molecular weight fraction to said high molecular weight fraction of 10:90 to 90:10; melting point 120 to 140°C;

density 940 to 950 kg/m³;

comonomer content 0.2 to 10% by weight; and crystallinity 60 to 90%.

- 10. A structure as claimed in claim 8 or claim 9 wherein said HDPE has a density of $955-975 \text{ kg/m}^3$.
- 11. An HDPE for use in injection moulding or extrusion coating, comprising at least two polyethylene components, wherein at least one said component is an ethylene copolymer and wherein at least the component with the lowest weight average molecular weight is an ethylene homopolymer.
- 12. An HDPE comprising at least two polyethylene components, wherein at least one said component is an ethylene copolymer and wherein at least the component

- 18 -

with the lowest weight average molecular weight is an ethylene homopolymer, and having the following characteristics:

MFR₂ of from 2 to 100;

mean weight average molecular weight of from 80 to 200 kD;

MWD of from 5 to 100;

weight average molecular weight of a low molecular weight fraction of 20 to 40 kD;

weight average molecular weight of a high molecular weight fraction of 150 to 400 kD;

weight ratio of said low molecular weight fraction to said high molecular weight fraction of 10:90 to 90:10; melting point 120 to 140°C;

density 940 to 950 kg/ m^3 ;

comonomer content 0.2 to 10% by weight; and crystallinity 60 to 90%.

- 13. An HDPE moulding composition comprising a particulate HDPE as defined in claim 12 together with at least one additive or further polymer.
- 14. An injection moulded article formed at least in part from an HDPE having the following characteristics: MFR $_2$ of from 2 to 100;

mean weight average molecular weight of from 80 to 200 $\ensuremath{k\mathrm{D}};$

MWD of from 5 to 100;

weight average molecular weight of a low molecular weight fraction of 20 to 40 kD;

weight average molecular weight of a high molecular weight fraction of 150 to 400 kD;

weight ratio of said low molecular weight fraction to said high molecular weight fraction of 10:90 to 90:10; melting point 120 to 140°C;

density 940 to 950 kg/m³;

comonomer content 0.2 to 10% by weight; and

crystallinity 60 to 90%.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Interna. A Application No PCT/GB 00/01959

4 21 422			
IPC 7	SFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER C08L23/04		
According	to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classif	ination and IDO	
	S SEARCHED	Camon and IPC	
Minimum d	ocumentation searched (classification system followed by classifica	ation symbols)	
IPC 7	COSL		
Documenta	ation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that	such documents are included in the fields se	arched
Electronic	data base consulted during the international search (name of data b	ase and, where practical, search terms used	
PAJ, E	EPO-Internal, WPI Data		
C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the re	elevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 451 873 A (TYLER DAVID O	ET AL)	1-14
	29 May 1984 (1984-05-29) abstract; claims 1-14		
	column 4, line 39-44; tables 1,2	2	
	column 5, line 25 -column 6, lir	ne 70	
	column 2, line 40,41		
Х	SEPPALA J V ET AL: "Effect of		1-14
	polymerization temperature on the	ie	
	polymerization of ethylene with dicyclopentadienylzirconiumdichl	oride/meth	
	ylalumoxane catalyst"	•	
	EUROPEAN POLYMER JOURNAL,GB,PERG	AMON PRESS	
	vol. 32, no. 3, 1 March 1996 (19	96-03-01)	
	pages 331-335, XP004075819		
	ISSN: 0014-3057 abstract		
		-/	
X Furth	ner documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent family members are listed in	n annex.
° Special cat	tegories of cited documents :	To later document published after the inter	national filing date
"A" docume	ent defining the general state of the art which is not lered to be of particular relevance	or priority date and not in conflict with t cited to understand the principle or the	he application but
"E" earlier d	ocument but published on or after the international ate	"X" document of particular relevance; the of	aimed invention
"L" docume	nt which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or is cited to establish the publication date of another	cannot be considered novel or cannot involve an inventive step when the doc	ument is taken alone
citation	o or other special reason (as specified) ent referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or	"Y" document of particular relevance; the cl cannot be considered to involve an inv	entive step when the
other n	neans nt published prior to the international filing date but	document is combined with one or mo ments, such combination being obviou in the art.	re other such docu- s to a person skilled
later th	an the priority date claimed	*&* document member of the same patent f	amily
Date of the s	octual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international sear	oh report
26	5 July 2000		1.008. 2000
Name and m	nailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer	1 u . 00. /UUU
	European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk		
	Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Bergmans, K	

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat J Application No PCT/GB 00/01959

	PC1/GB 00/01959
Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
US 5 804 660 A (CIRIHAL STEPHANIE C ET AL) 8 September 1998 (1998-09-08) abstract; claims 1-17 column 3, line 60 -column 4, line 67 column 6, line 32-55 column 10, line 5-55	1-14
US 5 494 965 A (HARLIN ALI ET AL) 27 February 1996 (1996-02-27) abstract; claims 1-18 column 3, line 50-67 column 4, line 9,10,23,27,34,39-47	1-14
US 5 306 775 A (MARTIN JOEL L ET AL) 26 April 1994 (1994-04-26) abstract; claims 1-10 column 2, line 50 column 4, line 4; table 1 column 4, line 60; table 2 column 5, line 13-16	1-14
EP 0 423 962 A (NIPPON PETROCHEMICALS CO LTD) 24 April 1991 (1991-04-24) abstract; claims 1-3 page 3, line 35-55 page 3, line 29,30	1-14
	AL) 8 September 1998 (1998-09-08) abstract; claims 1-17 column 3, line 60 -column 4, line 67 column 6, line 32-55 column 10, line 5-55 US 5 494 965 A (HARLIN ALI ET AL) 27 February 1996 (1996-02-27) abstract; claims 1-18 column 3, line 50-67 column 4, line 9,10,23,27,34,39-47 US 5 306 775 A (MARTIN JOEL L ET AL) 26 April 1994 (1994-04-26) abstract; claims 1-10 column 2, line 50 column 4, line 4; table 1 column 4, line 60; table 2 column 5, line 13-16 EP 0 423 962 A (NIPPON PETROCHEMICALS CO LTD) 24 April 1991 (1991-04-24) abstract; claims 1-3 page 3, line 35-55

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (July 1992)

1 .

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Interna al Application No
PCT/GB 00/01959

Patent document cited in search report	t	Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4451873	Α	29-05-1984	CA	1147311 A	31-05-1983
V V · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			DE	3107274 A	25-03-1982
			GB	2071410 A	16-09-1981
			JP	56138857 A	29-10-1981
			ŇĹ	8100884 A	01-10-1981
			ÜS	4459120 A	10-07-1984
			US	4429249 A	31-01-1984
US 5804660	Α	08-09-1998	US	5811494 A	22-09-1998
			US	5935505 A	10-08-1999
US 5494965	A	27-02-1996	FI	931343 A	27-09-1994
			AT	173484 T	15-12-1998
•			CA	2136742 A	13-10-1994
			CN	1106613 A	09-08-1995
			DE	69414667 D	24-12-1998
			DE	69414667 T	08-04-1999
			EP	0642549 A	15-03-1995
			ES	2123126 T	01-01 - 1999
			WO	9422948 A	13-10-1994
			NO	944525 A	25-11-1994
US 5306775	A	26-04-1994	CA	2078367 A	19-03-1993
			EP	0533155 A	24-03-1993
			HU	62633 A	28-05-1993
			JP	5202242 A	10-08-1993
		~~~~~~~~~	NO	923612 A	19-03-1993
EP 0423962	Α	24-04-1991	JP	3115445 A	16-05-1991
			AU	6327790 A	11-04-1991
			CA	2026497 A	30-03-1991

Form PCT/ISA/210 (patent family annex) (July 1992)